DC #1

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING FEB. 9 THRU MAR. 8

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9-issue mini-series

THE CRIMSON AVENGER
4-issue mini-series

THE WANDERERS
Ongoing monthly series

POWER GIRL
4-issue mini-series

BATMAN: YEAR ONE
Hardcover

PLUS . . .

An interview with David Mazzucchelli and Richmond Lewis

Cover Of The Month
SUPERMAN #18

FLASH GORDON RETURNS IN AN EPIC SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURE

Ever since he first appeared on newspaper comic strip pages in January of 1934, Alex Raymond's classic science fiction hero **Flash Gordon** has travelled the universe in search of adventure. Now his travels have brought him to DC Comics for an all-new, nine-issue New Format maxi-series.

Along with his intrepid companions, Dale Arden and the brilliant Dr. Zarkov, FLASH GORDON is off on his most deadly mission . . . an epic science fiction adventure in the boldest and best tradition of the genre. The deadly menace of Ming the Merciless, the cruel, murderous master of the alien world Mongo, casts his evil shadow across the universe. And only one man can halt the spread of his incomparable lust for dominance. That one man is Flash Gordon.

The nine-issue mini-series is written and pencilled by FLASH GORDON enthusiast Dan Jurgens and inked by Bruce Patterson. Dan and Bruce also provided the painted cover for the first issue.

Join **FLASH GORDON** on the cosmic adventure of a lifetime. You may never get a chance like this again.

DC'S ORIGINAL COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTER...THE CRIMSON AVENGER

It's 1938, and there aren't a whole lot of costumed crimefighters on the scene. In fact, the masked "mystery-man" known as **THE CRIMSON AVENGER** has the field pretty much to himself.

But even by himself, he's more than enough for the criminals of his day to worry about.

In the waning years of the 1930s, with the threat of war looming over Europe and the United States, Lee Travis, the young millionaire newspaper publisher, decides to do something more than write editorials about the troubles facing America. His answer? That masked and cloaked avenging angel of the night . . . THE CRIMSON AVENGER.

He's up to his neck in corpses, cops, crooks, and espionage in this four-issue mini-series written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and covers by Greg Brooks. So far, only they know the secret of the Black Cross and whether America will lose the war before it even begins. The story's waiting to be told . . . in THE CRIMSON AVENGER.

INTO THE 30TH CENTURY WITH... THE WANDERERS

In the era of The Legion of Super-Heroes, there also exists a group of heroes known as **THE WANDERERS.**

They've met The Legion before, and we've seen how they operate outside the limits of the United Planets to aid the citizens of the universe. But times have changed for this incredible group of wandering heroes, and their lives will never be the same.

Who are they? Where did they come from? And what is the mysterious and dangerous destiny that awaits THE WANDERERS at the end of their mission? Join writer Doug Moench and artists Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella in this New Format series for all the action and adventure in the universe of the 30th Century.

THE WANDERERS. Their journey has only just begun.

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor
Julia Sabbagh, Designer

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POWER GIRL AGAINST THE FORCES OF CHAOS

The past she *believed* was hers has proven to be an illusion, and now **POWER GIRL** must create a new present for herself . . . if the forces of Chaos from out of her past don't destroy her first.

POWER GIRL stars in her first mini-series, which offers the last surviving daughter of ancient Atlantis an all-new beginning and life. As Karen Starr, she's a successful young entrepreneur in the computer software field, with a life full of everyday hassles. As POWER GIRL, she's become the target of one of her grandfather Arion's greatest and most powerful foes, The Weaver, servant of Chaos and the ages-old guardian of the mighty Threads of Magic.

The battle begins near Karen's Brooklyn home. It will end in that dark relic of the age when magic ruled the Earth, the dimension called Darkworld, with

POWER GIRL in a battle for her life and the fate of the world.

The four-issue POWER GIRL mini-series is written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Rick Hoberg and Arne Starr, and a cover by Kerry Gammill and Dick Giordano.

The face may be the same, but this is a POWER GIRL unlike any you've ever seen.

BATMAN: YEAR ONE... THE HARDCOVER EDITION

THE BATMAN'S story, as chronicled in Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli's mini-series, **BATMAN: YEAR ONE** (from the pages of BATMAN #404-#407) has already taken its place in comics history as the definitive telling of the legendary Darknight Detective's earliest days.

Now the four-issue mini-series is re-presented for the first time in the BATMAN: YEAR ONE Hardcover Edition, a 104-page quality hardcover featuring every page of the original saga, completely recolored for this full-color process printing by David Mazzucchelli and colorist Richmond Lewis. It's a format worthy of the story it presents . . . BATMAN: YEAR ONE!

FROM • THE EDITOR

You hold in your hands the first copy of DIRECT CURRENTS, a new, *free* newsletter that tells you all about the DC Comics projects you'll be seeing in your comic store in February and early March. Though this is the first issue—yes, a #1, be sure to collect them all—DIRECT CURRENTS has a pretty awesome legacy.

Direct Currents actually started in early 1966. At that time, it was a text feature written by The Old Electrician. (Among the people who ghosted as The Old Electrician was Nelson Bridwell, who knew everything about everything, from comics to Shakespeare. His death one year ago was a great loss to all of us.)

Direct Currents as a feature appeared in DC's books for about a year, and then it faded—but not into oblivion. In the early 1970s, it was revived in "The Amazing World of DC Comics," a DC produced "fanzine" that lasted 16 issues before it, and the Direct Currents feature, faded again. Soon after, however, the feature graduated into a full-fledged one-page newsletter, designed by Neal Pozner (who among many other things was writer on the Aquaman mini-series).

Meanwhile—what a great comic book word—at the beginning of 1984, DC Comics started publishing DC RELEASES. The first "fanzine" by a publisher and made available free of charge in quantities large enough for all comic readers to get one, DC RELEASES started a grand tradition. Now, most comics companies provide a monthly newsletter free of charge.

But a lot has changed since 1984. Thanks to you and some spectacular comics, DC has grown and prospered. So for you, we replace DC RELEASES With DIRECT CURRENTS, a publication in its own right.

Every month, DIRECT CURRENTS will provide you with information about the projects scheduled to come out in the following month. And there will be lots more—information about folks who make DC great (check out David Mazzucchelli and Richmond Lewis in this issue), cartoons, and *lots* of color artwork.

And me. I'm the editor of DIRECT CURRENTS. You may have heard my name before—I'm quoted a lot in publications about comic books. I've been working kind of behind the scenes at DC Comics. And in the process, I've learned a lot about comics.

There, I've said it. I had to *learn* about comics. I'm not a comics fan, never even read DCs while I was growing up in New York City in the 1960s. But my four years in this industry at this particularly exciting time have made a believer out of me. I'm thrilled about the kind of material that's being published these days—especially the books we're working on here at DC. And I begged and pleaded with DC Management—well, maybe not the begged part—to let me share some of my enthusiasm with you each month in a new, better-than-ever newsletter.

So read on.

Oh, and Happy Birthday, Superman (February 29, 1988). None of us would be here if it weren't for you and for the people who created you. Thanks, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

See ya,

Peggy

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 9

☐ **AQUAMAN SPECIAL #1**
A 48-page, one-shot special starring the King of the Seven Seas. Aquaman gambles his very soul to save the oceans of the world from the Magus' magical constructs. Written by Dan Mishkin and Gary Cohn, with art by George Freeman and Mark Pacella. Cover by Freeman.

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #587**
The Batman visits the dark side of the American Dream to find out who is terrorizing the homeless of Gotham City. Written by Alan Grant and John Wagner, with art by Norm Breyfogle.

☐ **THE PHANTOM #2**
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
The high-seas adventures of the 13th Phantom continue as his modern-day descendant follows a murder trail to the concrete jungles of Manhattan. Written by Peter David, with art by Joe Orlando and Dennis Janke. Cover by Orlando and Dave Gibbons. *New Format.*

THE PHANTOM #2

☐ **THE QUESTION #17**
The Question has "A Dream of Rorschach" when, on the skids and torn between two heroic ideals, he buys a copy of the WATCHMEN TRADE PAPERBACK . . .! Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. Cover by Cowan and Bill Sienkiewicz. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

☐ **SONIC DISRUPTORS #7**
(of a 12-issue maxi-series)
Rock 'n' roll's the music of revolution . . . and the revolution's just hit critical mass, forcing the army to the wall. Written by Mike Baron, with art and cover by Barry Crain and John Nyberg. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

☐ **STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION #5**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
It's a no-win situation for Picard. If he wins the latest contest of wills with Q, a galaxy will die. If he loses, Q will win the *Enterprise*. Written by Mike Carlin, with art and cover by Pablo Marcos and Carlos Garzon.

☐ **WANDERERS #1**
They are the Wanderers, a team of strange new heroes in the era of the Legion of Super-Heroes . . . a team plagued with a mysterious and dangerous destiny. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella. Painted cover by Ken Steacy. *New Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 16

☐ **CHECKMATE #3**
Right-wing terrorists are about to split America in civil war . . . unless the entire mobilized might of the Checkmate organization can stop their plans for secession by violence. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. *New Format.*

☐ **CINDER AND ASHE #2**
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
It's best to let the past lie, as our damage control experts find when memories of their shared yesterdays in Vietnam begin to awaken dark feelings in the present. Written by Gerry Conway, with art and cover by José Luis García-López. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

☐ **CRIMSON AVENGER #1**
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
Masked "mystery men" were a rarity in 1938. In fact, Lee Travis, the Crimson Avenger has the field pretty much to himself, and the field is littered with corpses, cops, crooks, and the secret of the Black Cross. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and cover by Greg Brooks.

☐ **FIRESTORM THE NUCLEAR MAN #72**
The search for Martin Stein continues, interrupted only by the return of the Zuggernaut. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Joe Brozowski and Sam De La Rosa. Cover by Brozowski.

☐ **FLASH #13**
Has Vandal Savage finally found the perfect weapon in Velocity 9? Everyone who's exposed to it gets hooked to death. Written by Mike Baron, with art by Mike Collins and Larry Mahlstedt.

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #14**
Want to buy the Earth? Then you'd better see Manga Khan, but do it fast before the JLI stops him. Story by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, featuring the DC pencilling debut of Steve Leialoha, and inks by Al Gordon. Cover by Leialoha.

☐ **OUTCASTS #9**
(of a 12-issue maxi-series)
It's the grand opening of Boss Angel's ultimate theme park, and the Outcasts are just dying to get in. Written by John Wagner and Alan Grant, with art by Cam Kennedy and Steve Montano. Cover by Kennedy. *Deluxe format.*

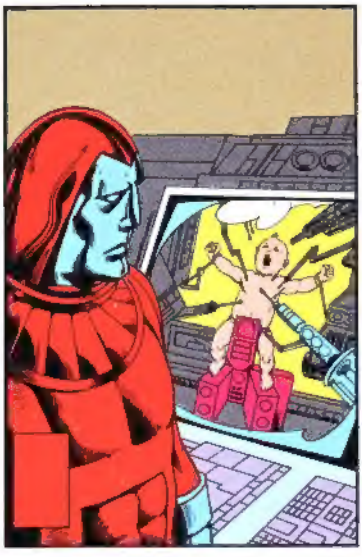
OUTCASTS #9

☐ **TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS #90**
If anyone has the power to destroy the Titans it's Brother Blood. Written by Marv Wolfman and Paul Levitz, with art by Eduardo Barreto and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Rob Liefeld and George Pérez. *Originally presented in THE NEW TEEN TITANS #30.*

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #17**
Modern-day Greece holds a new terror for the visiting Diana, while changes are in store for Mount Olympus. Written and pencilled by George Pérez. Cover by Pérez.

WONDER WOMAN #17

WORLD OF SMALLVILLE #3
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
An untold tale from the MILLENNIUM Saga featuring the story behind Lana Lang's connection to the Manhunters. Written by John Byrne, with art by Kurt Schaffenberger and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Byrne and Alcala.



WORLD OF SMALLVILLE #3

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 23

BATMAN #420
The "Ten Nights of the Beast" draws to a dark and deadly conclusion as the Batman and the Beast meet in the depths of Gotham City. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Mike Zeck.

THE FOREVER PEOPLE #5
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
They are together again, with the Mother Box offering her warmth and guidance and the Infinity Man providing his strength. But even with this help will the Forever People triumph over The Dark? Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Paris Cullins and Karl Kesel. *New Format.*

GREEN ARROW #5
Take an invading horde of Los Angeles gangs in the streets of Seattle, add the native gangs out to protect their turf, stick Green Arrow in the middle of it all and you've got havoc. Part one of two. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano. Cover by Grell and Hannigan. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

HELLBLAZER #6
Constantine stands in the way of the Resurrection Crusade and is forced to face the ultimate fascist and the horrors of prejudice. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by John Ridgway. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #47
The mystery surrounding the secret conspiracy within the Legion deepens along with the tension amongst the Leginnaires. Part two of five. Written by Paul Levitz, with art by Greg LaRocque, Pat Broderick, and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Ken Steacy. *Deluxe Format.*

MARTIAN MANHUNTER #2
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
He may be losing his shape-changing powers, but J'Onn J'Onzz must still defeat the Death God in battle. Guest-starring the Justice League International. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Mark Badger. *New Format.*

SECRET ORIGINS #27
It's the story of two generations of magicians as R.J.M. Lofficier, Robert Loren Fleming, Tom Artis, and P. Craig Russell present the origin of Zatanna, and Roy and Dann Thomas, Fleming, Grant Miehm, and Fred Fredericks fill us in on the story of her father, Zatara. Cover by Artis.

SILVERBLADE #10
(of a 12-issue maxi-series)
Their reality has been warped and their lives ravaged, and the friends of Jonathan Lord need to find the one star in Hollywood that can make Silverblade rise again. Written by Cary Bates, with art and cover by Gene Colan and Steve Mitchell. *New Format.*

SILVERBLADE #10

STAR TREK #51
An *Enterprise* crewman falls ill, and his tortured fever dreams turn the starship into a living hell. Written by Peter David, with art by Tom Sutton and Ricardo Villagran. Cover by Mitch O'Connell.

SUPERMAN #18
Continuing from ACTION COMICS #600, a depowered and fevered Superman is taken to the spot where Krypton once existed. Guest-starring Hawkman and Hawkwoman. Written by John Byrne, with art by Mike Mignola and Karl Kesel. Cover by Mignola and Byrne.

YOUNG ALL-STARS #13
Fury's life is the stake in the All-Stars' battle with Deathbolt and the Ultra-Humanite. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Howard Simpson and Malcolm Jones. *New Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING MARCH 1

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #441
Guess who's back in town? Mr. Mxyzptlk, and this time the madcap imp's changed all the rules. Plus, more on the developing saga of the new Brainiac. Written by John Byrne and Jerry Ordway, with art by Ordway and John Beatty. Cover by Ordway.

THE DOOM PATROL #9
Larry Trainor wants his negative energy back from Negative Woman . . . and he seems willing to kill Val Vostok to retrieve it. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Erik Larsen and Gary Martin. PLUS: The DC BONUS BOOK #3, featuring the new wave of DC talent. Writer Steve Miller and penciller Randy DeBurke put the spotlight on Celsius as a day in the life of an elderly woman leaves a deep impression in Arani's heart. Cover by Larsen and Al Gordon.

THE DOOM PATROL #9

FLASH GORDON #1
(of a 9-issue maxi-series)
He's *back*—Flash Gordon, comics' greatest science-fiction hero, comes to DC in an all-new epic battle against the incomparable evil of Ming the Merciless. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens, with art and painted cover by Jurgens and Bruce Patterson. *New Format.*

INFINITY, INC. #51
An Infinitor dies! Will this mark a new beginning for the grieving group . . . or merely the beginning of the end? Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Mike Bair and Bob Downs. *Deluxe Format.*

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #44
So much happening, and there's so little time for the Titans to deal with the Cuckoo Conspiracy . . . the return of Godiva. The Chase family business is revealed. Written by R.J.M. Lofficier, with art by Mike Collins and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Collins and Dick Giordano. *Deluxe Format.*

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #44

THE SHADOW #11
It's "Prime Time" for the Shadow and his men as a black-out crime wave creates chaos for the Shadow and all of Manhattan. Written by Andrew Helfer, with art and painted cover by Kyle Baker. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

SWAMP THING #73
Humanity's greatest fear is about to break loose on the world . . . with only Swamp Thing and John Constantine standing in its way. Written and pencilled by Rick Veitch and inked by Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Veitch and Tom Yeates. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

THE WEIRD #3
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
There's a part of Jason's past that's been bottled up until now . . . power that's unleashed in his explosive battle with the almighty and mysterious Weird. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Berni Wrightson and Dan Green. Cover by Wrightson.

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #3
(of a 7-issue maxi-series)
The spotlight this issue is on the Legionnaires' homeworlds, plus the inside information on Karate Kid, the Legion of Substitute Heroes, Laurel Kent, and more. Written by Barbara Randall, with art by Steve Lightle and others. Wraparound cover by Lightle.

THE WRATH OF THE SPECTRE #2
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
From his controversial past series in ADVENTURE COMICS, three more tales of the Spectre, written by Michael Fleisher, with art by Jim Aparo and Jim Thorne. Plus: more behind-the-scenes interviews with the creators of this landmark series. Wraparound cover by Aparo. *Deluxe Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING MARCH 9

BATMAN: YEAR ONE Hardcover Edition
Re-presenting the four-issue mini-series-within-a-series from BATMAN #404-#407, written by DARK KNIGHT creator Frank Miller and featuring art by David Mazzucchelli. Completely recolored by Mazzucchelli and Richmond Lewis for this 104-page hardcover edition. Cover painted by Mazzucchelli.

CAPTAIN ATOM #16
This fearsome elemental was once the Red Tornado, but now it's become an airborne cataclysm challenging Captain Atom and his fellow members of the Justice League. Written by Cary Bates, with art by Pat Broderick and Bob Smith. Cover by Broderick.

POWER GIRL #1
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
In her own mini-series at last, Power Girl is faced with a 45,000-year-old menace from her Atlantean past that brings the ancient war between Order and Chaos into her present. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Rick Hoberg and Arne Starr. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Dick Giordano.

THE SPECTRE #15
New York City stands on the edge of destruction, and only by entering Madame Xanadu's Tarot Deck can The Spectre and Jim Corrigan hope to save it. Part 4 of 4. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Gray Morrow. Cover by Charles Vess. *New Format.*

POWER GIRL #1

SUICIDE SQUAD #14
The Squad's latest mission: rescue Nightshade's brother from the Land of the Nightshade, where he's been trapped for a decade. Part 1 of 3. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Luke McDonnell. Cover by Jerry Bingham.

WASTELAND #7
You probably thought you've seen it all in these pages, but until you've read "The Great St. Louis Electrical Giraffe Caper" you ain't seen nothing yet. Stories by John Ostrander and Del Close, with art by David Lloyd, Donald Simpson, and George Freeman. Cover by William Messner-Loebs. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

people at WORK

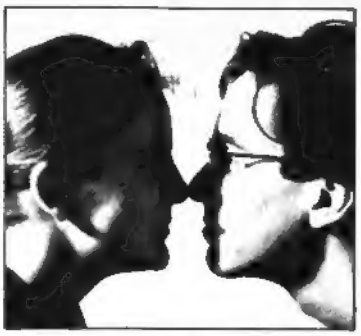
David Mazzucchelli & Richmond Lewis

BATMAN: YEAR ONE, the retelling of **BATMAN'S** early years and origin by writer Frank Miller and artist David Mazzucchelli, was one of the most highly acclaimed comic book efforts of 1986. Much of the credit for the success of this four issue mini-series, which originally ran in **BATMAN #404-#407**, goes to the artistic wizardry of David Mazzucchelli and the coloring skills of his wife and fellow creative talent Richmond Lewis.

BATMAN was probably the character that got me interested in comics as a kid," David said. "I was about five years old when the television show was on, and that was my initial exposure to the character. Since I was a child who liked to draw at every opportunity, it was a thrill to see that he was also in comics."

Years later, as a young artist trying to break into the comic book business, David recalls that BATMAN was always in the back of my mind."When I finally did break in, the last and best batch of samples I showed around consisted of three pages of BATMAN and three pages of Daredevil. It turned out to be very prophetic." David first came to noteriety with his work on the latter character for Marvel Comics, first with writer Denny O'Neil (who would later edit the YEAR ONE stories), and then with Frank Miller.

David remembers, "Frank had gotten the idea for BATMAN'S origin and early years when he was thinking of a restructuring of the character a few years before. Most of those ideas were used in **THE DARK KNIGHT** series,but some of it was



still kicking around in his head and, after our work together on Daredevil, he asked me to draw YEAR ONE."

His style had been evolving over the years. "The more I drew and saw of my work in print, the more I was able to see what worked best in comics," he said."By the time I started on YEAR ONE, I had worked out a simplified, short-hand approach that I feel makes comics work to their best advantage. My main influence for BATMAN himself came from a lot of what came before me. I went back to the first two years of stories, as well as to the work of a variety of artists to see the different ways the character had been done and I tried to come up with an approach to depicting BATMAN that felt comfortable to me but was still in line with the traditional BATMAN."

YEAR ONE was completely recolored to take advantage of the hardcover edition's full process color reproduction. "There's a big difference coloring for full process instead of newsprint," David points out. "Although you have a wide range of colors available in regular comics, the paper can only take so many different colors before they start to look the same. The colors have to be pretty bold for the reader to differentiate between characters and objects.

"I drew the book with a simplified line, leaving the art open for the color and to make it a strong element in the storytelling," David continued. "And when you have a good colorist working on the book, you're going to end up getting even more than you could ask for."

That's where wife Richmond comes in. Her background is in the fine arts, having studied painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. "I'd never looked at comics until I met David," she remembers. Since then she's managed to acquaint herself with some of the finer points of the field. "I especially love the early, simpler art style of comics Golden Age."

Richmond's goal in the re-coloring of YEAR ONE was simple. "I wanted to bring a sense of drama to the story, from simple color to the more complex. But overall it's pretty restrained. I tried to use a limited palette, so you won't see every color on every page, except in those places where the full range is called for.

"I tried to use the color to follow the storytelling. There are quiet places in the story that have quiet color, while a loud, fast paced big bang sequence is going to be colored to bring out the art's impact."

As for the differences between coloring for a newsprint comic book and the full process hardcover, Richmond said, "I think newsprint has a lot of possibilities that haven't been explored yet, but of course, with process color you have a lot more to work with. The trick is in trying to control it, to keep to the simplicity of newsprint color while using the fuller range available in process . . . but only where it's needed."

What was the result of this artistic husband and wife pairing? "I think the recolored edition is fantastic," said David. Richmond was likewise pleased with the collaboration, saying, "I loved coloring David's work . . . and not just because he's my husband."

The YEAR ONE mini-series was obviously a labor of love for both David Mazzucchelli and Richmond Lewis and it shows in every page of **BATMAN: YEAR ONE Hardcover Edition.**

DC NEWS

Every four years we come to a Leap Year, when an extra day is added to the month of February to balance the calendar. That day, February 29, is also the birthday of **SUPERMAN.** By a happy coincidence, 1988, the year of the **MAN OF STEEL'S** 50th Anniversary Celebration, is also a Leap Year and, with February coming up fast, we thought now would be a good time to pass along a few birthday greetings from the people who know him best.

John Byrne, writer/artist of SUPERMAN and ACTION COMICS, and co-writer of ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN:

"Here's something to ponder: **SUPERMAN** first appeared in 1938 and this year he'll be 50 years old. *I* first appeared in 1950 and this year I'll be 38. All you numerologists out there have a ball with that one. Happy birthday, **SUPERMAN.**"

Mike Carlin, SUPERMAN editor since last year:

"Seeing as how I'm one of the few second generation **SUPERMAN** fans in the comic business, it's a particular honor for me to be associated with the **MAN OF STEEL** this year. I think the only person more thrilled than me is my mother, since she's been with **SUPERMAN** for twice as many years as I have. Happy birthday from me and mom, **SUPERMAN.**"

Curt Swan, SUPERMAN artist from 1955 to 1986, and penciller of SUPERMAN: THE EARTH STEALERS Prestige Format:

"Happy birthday, **SUPERMAN!** I've had the pleasure of being a close associate of his for the better part of these 50 years and I've seen him through a lot of birthdays, but I'm especially pleased to be able to send him my warmest greetings on this one in particular. **SUPERMAN** is one of America's folk heroes, and how many of us get to claim one of those as a friend?"

Julie Schwartz, editor of SUPERMAN from 1973 to 1986 and DC'S Editor Emeritus:

"What do you get for the **MAN OF STEEL** who has everything? It's going to take a gift-buyer with considerably more skill than I possess to answer that question, so I guess the best I can do is give **SUPERMAN** my best wishes and hopes for another 50 birthdays. At least!"

Detective COMICS

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of DETECTIVE #20 (1938), in which The Crimson Avenger made his first appearance.